

REMARKS

This supplemental amendment follows the telephone interview of April 27, 2007 between Examiner LeRoux and the undersigned attorney. The courtesy of that interview is appreciated.

In the interview, the attorney explained the invention, including examples of how the invention operates, and explained the terms used in the claims. On the issue of claim terms, Mr. LeRoux still seemed to have an issue regarding the words "items", "possibilities", "attributes" and "values" as used in the claims, particularly claim 1.

As explained to the Examiner, each of the words "items", "attributes" and "values" has the same meaning in each instance in claim 1. The fact that there are usually many natural items in the collection of natural items does not deter from the fact that "item" or "items" has the same meaning at every occurrence. Each of these words refers to one or many of a collection or series of items, attributes or values. All of this is explained not only in the claim but thoroughly in the specification.

If a machine is claimed, for example, as having a collection of gears, and the machine is recited as having a means for connecting a lever to one of the collection of gears,

and the word "gears" is used a dozen times in the claim, this is not improper. In other words, there is no need to identify which of the gears is being spoken of at each occurrence. The Examiner seemed to conclude he would have to assume there is only one attribute, one value, and one item for purposes of reviewing claim 1. This is not understood and is contrary to the meaning of the claim terms and the claim as a whole.

Nevertheless, changes are now made to claim 1 and several of the dependent claims to add further wording (such as "said", "the", etc.) to help emphasize the fact that certain terms have proper antecedent basis. "Item" is now always referred to as "natural item" in claims 1-21. In the opinion of the undersigned attorney, claim 1 was much clearer, easier to read and perfectly clear in meaning prior to these amendments. The amendment is made because in the official action and in the telephone interview, the Examiner expressed confusion as to, for example, the thirteen occurrences of the word "attribute" in claim 1, expressing confusion as to whether these were all the same thing (they do all mean the same thing, but there are a plurality of attributes). With these changes, at least from the Examiner's point of view, the claim should apparently be clearer in meaning. Again, however, the Examiner is urged to read the entire specification because all terms, expressions and elements of the claim are very plainly understood when one

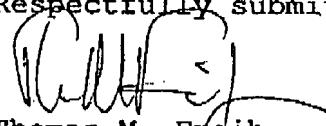
has read and understood the specification with reference to the drawings.

It is believed that all claims are manifestly allowable, and allowance is solicited. As demonstrated in the response mailed by the attorney March 8, as well as the explanation provided the Examiner in the telephone interview, the Kevan reference relied on by the Examiner has no relation to the claimed invention other than being an electronic device that displays in different media formats. It is an electronic field guide. The reference has no relation to and does not in any way suggest a searching device, much less one which searches using an elimination protocol as in the defined invention.

If the Examiner's next action is not a complete allowance, it is requested that such an action **not** be made final. As noted previously, the method claims of this application have not been properly addressed by the Examiner in the specific manner required by the rules and MPEP. These method claims are discussed in the March 8, 2007 response and they are distinct from the prior art and should be allowed.

Favorable action is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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